

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed January 30, 2006 has been carefully reviewed and, in view of the above amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Claims 28-59 are currently pending in the application, with claims 28 and 29 being independent claims. In accordance with the above claim amendments, claims 1-27 are cancelled and claims 31-59 are added.

According to the Office Action, claims 28-30 are allowable upon filing of a Terminal Disclaimer. Filed with this Amendment is a Terminal Disclaimer relating to copending U.S. Patent Application serial numbers 10/767,211 and 10/767,404. Furthermore, new claims 31-44 depend from independent claim 28, and new claims 45-59 depend from independent claim 29. Given that each of independent claims 28 and 29 were indicated as being allowable, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 31-59 should be allowable for at least the same reasons.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are in a condition for allowance. The Applicants respectfully request, therefore, that the rejections be withdrawn and that this application now be allowed.

This Amendment is being timely filed by facsimile transmission on March 8, 2006. Should fees or an extension of time be deemed necessary for consideration of this Amendment, such fees or extension are hereby requested and the Commissioner is authorized to charge deposit account number 19-0733 for payment. If anything further is desirable to place the application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned representative at (503) 425-6800.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Byron S. Kuzara
Registration No. 51,255

Banner & Witcoff, Ltd.
1001 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001-4597
Telephone: (202) 824-3000
Dated: March 8, 2006